

Maintaining our spiritual passion

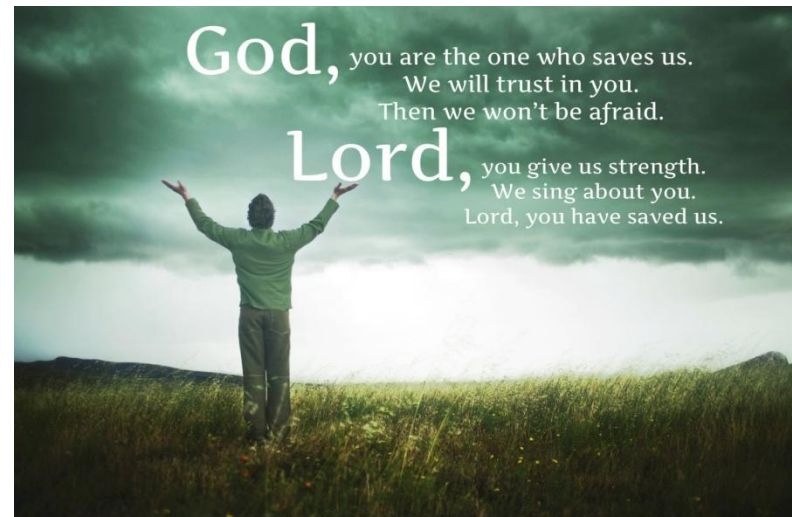
(A key to being effective in sharing our faith with others)



The Apostle Paul wrote, “that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgement of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.” (Philemon 1:6)

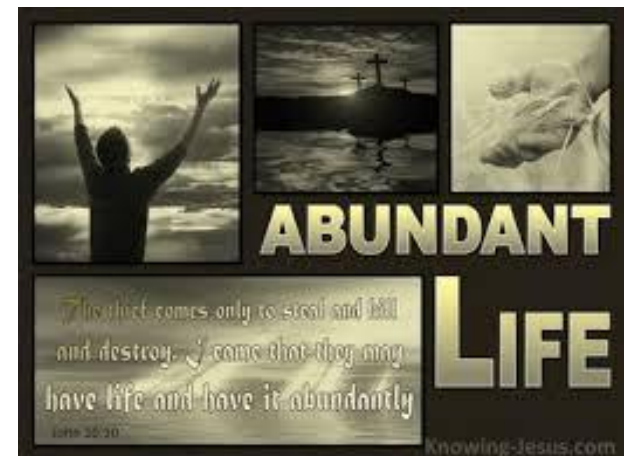
King David wrote,

“I will praise You, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.” (Psalm 9:1-2)



As Christians we have so much that we can enjoy

- **We have eternal life**
- We have a God who can give us wisdom to make good choices in life. We need to simply just ask
- **God has a plan for our life that is full of purpose and meaning,**
- God promises to meet our every need in life as we put Him first in our life
- **We can enjoy His ongoing presence in our life. In His presence is fullness of joy**
- Jesus came that we may have life and life more abundantly



King David wrote,

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits; Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, **who redeems your life from destruction**, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.” (Psalm 103:2-5)



- So as believers we have the ability to minister encouragement and hope to those around us as we ourselves embrace the fullness of life that God has planned for our life



- However often the enemy is able to discourage and distract Christians so that this is not the case. The enemy loves to see Christians living discouraged and defeated lives to prevent them from winning others to Christ – EVERY BELIEVER IS IN A VERY REAL SPIRITUAL CONTEST

- The real battle is in the mind. We must win the battle for the mind



- If we constantly meditate on negative and wrong things we will see our heart attitudes being changed. The enemy will constantly target our mind with negative and wrong thoughts
- If we can always quickly replace wrong thoughts with Christ centred thoughts we will maintain a **healthy heart**

We must refuse to allow:

- Fear
- Wrong attitudes
- Offences,
- Envy and jealousy, and
- Unbelief

To develop in our heart because out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.

The words that we speak will frame our future and determine our effectiveness in sharing our faith. The world is looking for a hope and that hope can only be found in Jesus



**MAINTAINING A HEALTHY HEART IS A GREAT KEY
TO CONSISTENTLY SPEAKING WORDS OF LIFE
AND ENCOURAGEMENT - BECAUSE OUT OF THE
ABUNDANCE OF THE HEART THE MOUTH SPEAKS**

In the book of Proverbs we read,

“Keep your heart with all diligence,
for out of it spring the issues of life.”
(Proverbs 4:23)



“For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, but his heart is not with you.”
(Proverbs 23:7)

So what will determine whether or not we maintain a right and faith filled heart, so that we always speak words of life?

So that the sharing of our faith may become effective as we learn to acknowledge and speak about all the good things that we have in Christ

1) What are we are focusing on.

Do we keep focusing on our possibilities in God or always on our problems and challenges and the faults of others



The Apostle Paul wrote,

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,” (Ephesians 3:20)



GOD HAS SO MUCH IN STORE FOR EVERY BELIEVER'S LIFE

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy-meditate on these things.” **(Philippians 4:8)**



So what we continually focus on is crucial as it will greatly impact our heart attitudes, either for the good or for the bad and what we invariably speak out of our mouths – Particularly when under pressure

2) What are you living for? – For the Kingdom cause or for yourself



Jesus said,

“...I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” **(John 10:10)**

There is great purpose and meaning in living for the Kingdom cause – It really is a faith adventure that is not however exempt from trials and challenges

There is no greater purpose than to know Christ intimately and to follow God’s plan for our life

3) Are you able to quickly forgive those who hurt you? – We all will be hurt by others at times

Jesus Himself said in relation to the times that we are now living in,

**“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.
(Matthew 24:10-11)**



In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord; looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;” (Hebrews 12:14-15)

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THOSE WHO WRONG US

- Hebrews 12:14-15 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled.



4) Are you continually trusting God in every area of your life? – God will always make a way even where there seems no way – God has your future secured – For with God nothing will be impossible – **We need to simply let HIM LEAD**



In the book of Isaiah we read,

“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You. Trust in the LORD forever, For in YAH, the LORD, is everlasting strength.” (Isaiah 26:3-4)

Jesus Himself also said,

“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ Or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” **(Matthew 6:31-33)**



5) Can you let go of your past failures and MOVE on to fully embrace the FUTURE that God has planned for your life? – We must refuse to live with regrets – If we do it will prevent us from entering into the great future that God has planned for our life

This is why the Apostle Paul wrote,

“Not that I have already attained, already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; **but one thing I do**, *forgetting* those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” **(Philippians 3:12-14)**



6) Is knowing Jesus intimately our greatest priority in life? – If it is, it will greatly influence the way that we share our faith with others

Spending time in God's presence changes the way that we think and act and is a great key to us fully comprehending the wonderful hope that we have in Christ

King David wrote,



“O GOD, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for you; My flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory. Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.” (Psalm 63:1-3)